

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0316

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SUBJECT: SOCIALIST PARTY PARTICIPATION IN UPCOMING
INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

REFS: (A) MADRID 153 (DTG 091723Z JAN 76, (B) 75 PARIS
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SUMMARY: THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS (PS) SEE LITTLE ADVANTAGE
IN PARTICIPATION IN EITHER THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIALIST
INTERNATIONAL STUDY GROUP CURRENTLY IN MADRID OR THE JAN 24-25
PARIS MEETING OF SOCIALIST LEADERS OF SOUTHERN EUROPE.
PS REPRESENTATION AT BOTH MEETINGS WILL BE LOW LEVEL. SOARES
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WILL ATTEND THE JAN 17-19 MEETING OF SOCIALIST LEADERS IN

HELSINGOR, WHERE HE WILL PRESS FOR MORE AID TO PORTUGAL AND SUPPORT FOR THE PS IN THE UPCOMING ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF, RUI MATEUS, CHIEF OF SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) INTERNATIONAL DIVISION, COMMENTED ON SEVERAL UPCOMING EUROPEAN MEETINGS:

-- MADRID VISIT BY SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL STUDY GROUP: PS DOES NOT ATTRIBUTE GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CURRENT VISIT BY SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (SI) STUDY GROUP TO MADRID, DESPITE PARTICIPATION BY MITTERAND. PS WILL BE REPRESENTED BY JAIME GAMA, A MEMBER OF ITS NATIONAL SECRETARIAT. ALTHOUGH MITTERAND WILL FORMALLY LEAD STUDY MISSION DURING HIS BRIEF STAY IN MADRID, INITIATIVE FOR STUDY GROUP COMES FROM BRITISH LABOR PARTY, WHICH HAS BEEN CHARGED BY SI WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPING POLICY TOWARD SPAIN. MATEUS NOTED THAT DOMINATION OF LABOR PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL DIVISION BY EXTREME LEFT-WING OF PARTY DID LITTLE TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE IN MADRID OUTCOME.

-- PARIS MEETING OF SOUTHERN EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS: THE SCHEDULED JAN 24-25 MEETING OF SOUTHERN EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS IS A MITTERAND INITIATIVE. MITTERAND WOULD LIKE TO BUILD A SOUTHERN EUROPEAN BLOC WITHIN THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, WITH HIMSELF AS ITS LEADER, AS A COUNTERPOISE TO PALME AND THE NORTHERN EUROPEANS. SOARES PERSONALLY DISLIKES MITTERLAND AND WILL NOT BE A PARTY TO HIS PLANS. THE PS WILL BE REPRESENTED BY WHAT MATEUS DESCRIBED AS AN "APPROPRIATELY LOW-LEVEL DELEGATION," CONSISTING OF MANUEL ALEGRE, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT; AND TWO STAFFERS, BERNARDINO GOMES AND RUDOLFO CRESPO.

-- SOCIALIST MEETING AT HELSINGOR: THE PS ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE JAN 17-19 MEETING. MATEUS, IN BRIEFLY REVIEWING MEETING AGENDA - WHICH ESSENTIALLY AS REPORTED REF C -- NOTED THAT IT WOULD PROVIDE FOR A FULL AND FRANK EXCHANGE ON MOST OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING THOSE ATTENDING. HE NOTED THAT TIME HAD BEEN SET ASIDE FOR AN EXAMINATION OF THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL WITH EMPHASIS UPON HOW THE OTHER PARTIES COULD BEST AID THE PS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. SOARES WILL ATTEND, TOGETHER WITH MATEUS AND BERNARDINO GOMES.

2. COMMENT: THE SOCIALISTS SEE LITTLE ADVANTAGE IN PARTICIPATION IN EITHER THE MADRID OR PARIS MEETINGS. THEY ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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SUSPICIOUS OF MITTERLAND'S MOTIVES, AND ARE NOT ANXIOUS TO DO ANYTHING WHICH WILL STRENGTHEN HIS CLAIM TO LEADERSHIP IN SOUTHERN EUROPE. NOR DO THEY WISH TO OPEN THE PS TO CRITICISM FROM NORTHERN EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS FROM WHOM THE PS CONTINUES TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT FINANCIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT. SOARES VIEWS THE HELSINGOR MEETING AS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY BOTH TO SEEK ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND TO PRESS PORTUGUESE CLAIMS FOR SPECIAL ECONOMIC

ASSISTANCE.

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